

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 183253

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: ITINERARY OF ROBERT WATKINS, DEPARTMENT OF
-- COMMERCE

1. ROBERT WATKINS, JAPAN TRADE POLICY SPECIALIST, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, IN ADDITION TO PARTICIPATING IN U.S./JAPAN AUTOMOBILE TRADE TALKS ON JULY 28 AND POSSIBLE RELATED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON JULY 29-30, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WITH APPROPRIATE EMBOFFS, GOJ OFFICIALS AND RESIDENT U.S. BUSINESSMEN:

A. JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL POLICY PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY. COMMERCE IS INTERESTED IN THE IMPACT OF GOJ INVOLVEMENT IN ENCOURAGING PARTICULAR TYPES OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE FUTURE PATTERN OF U.S./JAPAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT FLOWS. APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUESTED WITH THE INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE DIVISION, INDUSTRIAL POLICY BUREAU, MITI; ELECTRONICS POLICY DIVISION, MACHINERY AND INFORMATION INDUSTRIES BUREAU, MITI; IBM JAPAN; AND
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TAKACHIHO BURROUGHS.

B. JAPANESE CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION OF FLOOR TILE. PROBLEM, RAISED BY A U.S. MANUFACTURER, INVOLVES THE CLASSIFICATION OF ITS PRODUCT BY JAPANESE CUSTOMS IN A HIGHER TARIFF CATEGORY THAN AN ALMOST IDENTICAL PRODUCT OF A COMPETITOR. WATKINS WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH COMPLETE DETAILS AND WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER WITH JAPANESE CUSTOMS.

C. PROCUREMENT POLICY OF ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LTD. ON BEHALF OF A U.S. MANUFACTURER, WATKINS WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE EPDC PROCUREMENT AND NATURE OF EPDC/GOJ RELATIONSHIP. REQUEST APPOINTMENT WITH APPROPRIATE EPDC OFFICIAL.

D. NIPPON TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH PROCUREMENT. WATKINS WOULD LIKE TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF THE REFERENCE TO THE JAPANESE "GOVERNMENT'S SPECIAL PROCUREMENT POLICIES" CONTAINED IN THE GOJ RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE ON NTT PROCUREMENT.

2. WATKINS HOPES TO PURSUE THE TOPICS INDICATED ABOVE ON AUGUST 2-4 SO NO ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED UNTIL AFTER HIS ARRIVAL ON JULY 26 AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICERS.

3. WATKINS PLANNING TO LEAVE TOKYO ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4 VIA NW6 AT 1800. ARRIVAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL. REQUEST RESERVATION AT OKURA BE EXTENDED THROUGH AUGUST 3. ROBINSON

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